

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

Merlin Lkent Williams,

Plaintiff,

v.

State of Mississippi, et.al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-00054-CDS-BNW

ORDER

Pro se plaintiff filed documents initiating this case on January 10, 2023. ECF No. 1. His request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is at ECF No. 11. Plaintiff's complaint is at ECF No. 2-1. As explained below, the Court will hold his request to proceed *in forma pauperis* in abeyance until after it reviews his amended complaint, if one is filed.

I. ANALYSIS

A. Screening standard

Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must screen the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). In screening the complaint, a court must identify cognizable claims and dismiss claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim on which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Dismissal for failure to state a claim under § 1915(e)(2) incorporates the standard for failure to state a claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). *Watison v. Carter*, 668 F.3d 1108, 1112 (9th Cir. 2012). To survive § 1915 review, a complaint must "contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *See Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). The court liberally construes pro se complaints and may only dismiss them "if it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief." *Nordstrom v. Ryan*, 762 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678).

1 In considering whether the complaint is sufficient to state a claim, all allegations of
2 material fact are taken as true and construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. *Wylar*
3 *Summit P'ship v. Turner Broad. Sys. Inc.*, 135 F.3d 658, 661 (9th Cir. 1998) (citation omitted).
4 Although the standard under Rule 12(b)(6) does not require detailed factual allegations, a plaintiff
5 must provide more than mere labels and conclusions. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S.
6 544, 555 (2007). A formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action is insufficient. *Id.* But
7 unless it is clear the complaint's deficiencies could not be cured through amendment, a pro se
8 plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with notice regarding the complaint's
9 deficiencies. *Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

10 **B. Screening the Complaint**

11 Here, even liberally construing the amended complaint in Williams' favor, it fails to
12 state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Williams' handwriting is mostly illegible,
13 making it impossible for the court to decipher all his allegations. In turn, the Court cannot
14 evaluate whether Plaintiff states any claims for relief. The Court has noted this before. *See*
15 ECF No. 6. The Court, therefore, will dismiss the complaint without prejudice for Williams to
16 file a First Amended Complaint. If Williams chooses to file a First Amended Complaint, it
17 must be clearly printed or typed and **double-spaced**.

18 The First Amended Complaint must be complete in and of itself. If Plaintiff chooses to
19 file an amended complaint, he is advised that an amended complaint supersedes the original
20 complaint and, thus, the amended complaint must be complete by itself. *See Hal Roach Studios,*
21 *Inc. v. Richard Feiner & Co., Inc.*, 896 F.2d 1542, 1546 (9th Cir. 1989) (holding that "[t]he fact
22 that a party was named in the original complaint is irrelevant; an amended pleading supersedes
23 the original"). Plaintiff's amended complaint must contain all claims, defendants, and factual
24 allegations that Plaintiff wishes to pursue in this lawsuit. Moreover, Plaintiff must file his
25 amended complaint on this Court's approved form, which the Clerk of Court will send Plaintiff.

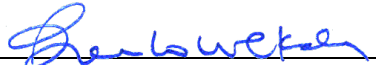
26 **I. CONCLUSION**

27 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Plaintiff's Complaint (ECF No. 1-1) is dismissed
28 without prejudice and with leave to amend.

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall mail Plaintiff a copy of the
2 prisoner pro se form complaint.

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Plaintiff chooses to amend his complaint, he must do
4 so by March 24, 2023. If Plaintiff chooses not to amend his complaint, this Court will recommend
5 that his case be dismissed.

6
7 DATED: February 24, 2023

8 
9 BREND A WEKSLER
10 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28